

Beach Cities Democratic Club



P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

January, 2008

January Meeting Tuesday, January 22, 7:30 2000 Artesia Boulevard Redondo Beach

We'll be hearing an update on Health Care for All Californians from Sheila Hoff. In addition, we've invited people to speak on the many legislative issues in Sacramento. We're facing a big year; Democratic activism has never been so important. Come and see how you can get involved.

Holiday Cheer

BCDC members enjoyed our annual holiday dinner party at the beautiful Redondo Beach home of Dale and Don Petrusis. Our intrepid auctioneer Lee Fink presided at the White Donkey auction, pulling in fistfuls of dollars for the treasury. More pictures inside.



John Dean Speaks Out on Broken Government

Local Democrats turned out on November 18 to hear John Dean speak and answer questions about his new book, Broken Government. The event, sponsored by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Club, drew over 300 attendees. PVPDC's president

Tony Hale kept to the schedule and fielded the audience skillfully so that a large number of attendees could ask their questions.

John Dean described how the Republicans have so abused the political process that they have all but destroyed public

confidence in government. Ratings for our Democratically-controlled Congress are lower than those of President Bush. Given public cynicism, the 2008 presidential race is not a shoo-in for the Democratic candidate.

Even prominent Republicans consider George W. Bush the worst President in our nation's history. He has

flouted the law, taken the country into a disastrous war for which he accepts no responsibility, and stacked the Supreme Court with ideologues. Dean said that if a vacancy occurs on the Court during Bush's tenure, Democrats absolutely must refuse to confirm another far-right Justice.

How did Republicans get away with all this? Dean believes their party consists of authoritarian personalities. If our Party does prevail in 2008, Dean believes they will roll back some of the unprecedented powers that have been appropriated by Bush and Cheney over the past seven years.

Thus Nancy Pelosi behaved collegially to outgoing House Speaker Dennis Hastert when she took over his office and offered him a similarly spacious one. The good behavior of Democrats in power could turn out to be an advantage if we stay in the majority; retribution would only further damage the government.



John Dean signed his book and answered more questions after the program.



We honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on January 21, 2008

From the President

THIS IS GOING TO BE A GREAT YEAR! Now that we have recovered from the Holiday



Season, it is pleasant to contemplate the coming year. Currently the Republicans are desperately seeking leadership from a dismal lot. We have a group of candidates that are all worthy of selection for President, and California will be prominent in the selection process on February 5th. In case you still are trying to select a candidate after all of the debates and forums, join us for a discussion of the issues at the next club meeting.

Electing a Democrat as the next President will make our year, but there are many issues that are going to cause distress. This month we will again look at health care legislation with Sheila Hoff, Director HEALTH CARE FOR ALL, South Bay/ Long Beach. The Assembly has passed a measure that is moving to the Senate. This measure is not the Universal Health Care that

most of us want.

The California Legislature is not likely to agree with my optimistic analysis of the year. There is a looming \$14 Billion deficit in the state budget and the Governor is proposing devastating cuts. Our Representatives have been asked to outline their analysis of the state of our State at our club meeting. Let's unite around actions to meet the needs of our state.

Nationally, we see the need for reform. Campaign financing, immigration, protection of our ballot boxes, a sensible health care system, revision of the education bill, additional improvements in the energy bill, fairer tax law and fair trade all need legislative attention.

There are similar changes needed in our foreign policy: our foreign military adventures need to be ended and the environmental degradation reversed. It is time to recognize the problems causing population movements and seek reasonable international solutions.

I am looking forward to seeing familiar and new faces at our monthly meeting and at the coming attractions in the following months.

Ray Waters

November Recap

Protecting Our Elections

Walter Mondale didn't lose to Norm Coleman in Minnesota. Max Cleland didn't lose to Saxby Chambliss in Georgia. So claimed election activist Judith Alter, creator of the website www.protectcaliforniaballots.org.



Judith Alter

A UCLA professor emeritus, Alter began working on election justice issues four days after the October 2003 California recall election in which there was compelling evidence that the Diebold machines had swung the election to Arnold Schwarzenegger.

She painted a discouraging picture of the many ways Republican lawmakers have stymied Democratic voters and stolen elections: falsely disenfranchising African Americans, using

More party pictures

December 9, 2007



“proprietary” software that is not subject to inspection in electronic voting machines, disregarding government standards for voting machine security.

Evidence exists that touch-screen voting machines can easily be infiltrated to switch votes, and we do not have paper audit trails to safeguard against this. Wireless devices are included with many models that constitute a major vulnerability to fraud.

We do have state laws that require that casting ballots and counting votes be done in public view with representatives from each party and watchers from the media viewing how each ballot is tabulated.

Examples abound of election fraud: 300 thousand Democratic votes were purged in Ohio. Bob Ney (now in jail) took money from Jack Abramoff (now in jail) who took money from Diebold to take over our nationwide elections with their voting machines: even the people who certify and qualify elections are employees of Diebold.

In the 2004 election, over 5 million votes disappeared. Reasons included an estimated 300 thousand voters wrongly purged and another 300 thousand turned away, 1.6 million registrations rejected, over two million provisional or “spoiled” ballots rejected, and half a million absentee ballots rejected.

What to do? Alter said to avoid absentee voting since the fate of the ballot cannot be known once it’s sent in. The California law requiring voters to be notified when their ballot arrives does nothing to protect that ballot.

She said three things need to happen:

- ♦ Ballots must be marked, privately.
- ♦ Ballots must be placed in the box, publicly.
- ♦ Ballots must be counted, publicly.

Become a poll watcher. Alter’s organization offers extra training. Par-

Monroe Redux

Mass media usually refers to a combination of newspapers, radio, TV, & now the internet. What is frequently omitted are BOOKS, the thoughtful & long lasting media.

Hopefully, you folks will recall & attended the presentation by John Dean on November 28, under the auspices of the Palos Verdes Club. Essentially, John Dean was promoting his latest book, BROKEN GOVERNMENT. The title is an obvious clue to its contents, although you need only to listen to President George Dubya for 10 minutes & you realize that the zoo-keepers have caged the wrong animals.

John Dean spells out some dire & disastrous facts: Republican (i.e. Bush) abuse of power, excessive secrecy, incapacity to govern, partisan polarization, abuse of the Constitution, got us into an unwinnable war, alienated our friends worldwide, attacked the separation of church-state, ignorantly hostile to scientific & technological progress & claims the authority to disobey enacted laws. Dean also mentions the lack of intestinal fortitude by the Democrats (the “WUSS” factor). Dean’s major premise is that our Democratic process is broken & that our Judiciary is biased. We require

participate in citizen exit polls (remember the ones that showed Kerry as the winner in 2004?), and then note any irregularities that follow.

Some informative websites include: votersunite.org, ElectionDefense Alliance.org, and Bradblog.com.

Club Business

At the November meeting, Tony Hale reported from LA County Committee meeting. He said that Eric Bauman was depressed by Dianne Feinstein’s vote to approve Michael Mukasey for Attorney General. Some at the meeting wanted to censure her, but the committee stopped short of that.

a major reconstruction in the USA, & we best do it fast!

Another book to call to your attention is *The Conscience of a Liberal* by Paul Krugman, who is a

Princeton University Professor as well as an op-ed commentator for the *New York Times*. He holds out some hope for us all if we can enact a Universal Health Plan and restore progressivity to our tax system (let the wealthy pay an increased share of the tax burden).

Finally, there is a book titled *Where Have All the Leaders Gone?* by Lee Iacocca (onetime head of Ford & later Chrysler). I do not know what his political affiliations are or were, but he is direct, blunt & accurate...suggesting that we do not stay the course, but “throw the bums out.” He thinks that George Dubya froze after hearing about 9-11. He thinks that Dubya did not listen to Daddy regarding Iraq but prides himself on listening to a higher father. He says “...if that doesn’t scare the crap out of you, I don’t know what will.”

And all I can add now is the poker game expression.....READ ‘EM & WEEP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Monroe Weinstock

The members endorsed Prop 93 on term limits, which Tony said is a fraudulent measure to give Speaker Fabian Nuñez an extra six years in office. In agreement with Tony, BCDC passed a motion to oppose Prop 93 and censure the state party over that endorsement.

Democrats are divided on measures on Indian gambling.

Teresa Bird reported that the Torrance School board election put in one Democrat and one Republican, and, most important, kept out Rick Marshall. She said Tim Goodrich, of Iraq Vets Against the War, is getting his city council campaign in gear.



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Beach Cities Democratic Club



Beach Cities Democratic Club
Membership Form



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I (we) understand that only registered Democrats, or those intending to register, may join the club.

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Annual dues are \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two at the same address.

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